



SUMMER GEODAYS 2011

In the last newsletter, I appealed for some help at Geodays this summer. Thanks to those who offered and I hope you have a lot of fun! Photo of our display at Oakwell Hall in August 2010, before the audience arrived.

BAILDON HILL PROJECT

Baildon Hill, north of Bradford, is a Local Geological Site which also has a great industrial history. On the hill there has been mining for fireclay and ganister, which were used to make firebricks for furnaces and coal fires. There are two coal seams which are of good enough quality for domestic and industrial use, although they are each less than a metre thick. The coal seams have been mined for centuries, first using bell pits, then adits and shaft mining. A group of volunteers are researching the industrial archaeology of the hill and WYGT has been asked to write a report to explain the geology of the area. We are looking forward to investigating this more fully.



Looking for fossils in mudstones on Baildon Hill April 2010

SURVEYING IN EAST KIRKLEES AND WAKEFIELD

The Local Geological Sites in West Yorkshire were first surveyed in the mid-1990s. They are identified in the data base on the WYGT website and used by planning departments in the five local authorities to inform their planning decisions. However, surveying was sketchy in the east of West Yorkshire and there are some rock types which are not represented in the list of LGS, available on the WYGT website. Volunteers have stepped forward to search for more rock exposures in this area. The best will be surveyed in detail and put forward for designation as LGS by a panel appointed by the local authority countryside units. The group of volunteers has met to talk about how the surveying will proceed and visited an LGS in Wakefield to practise their skills. Areas have been allocated, so it is hoped that they can find lots of rock exposures to explore this summer!

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Members will be pleased to see that the website has been updated recently to make it easier to follow and more modern in appearance. A page of interesting geological places to visit in West Yorkshire has been added, as has a list of websites which give geological information, which can be found on the Links page. Thanks to Richard Bell for setting up the website many years ago and to Barry Tymon for offering to maintain it in the future.

I have loaded some of our geology walks onto a website called Walk4life at www.walk4life.info. Check the WYGT website to see if there is a walk you would like to do, then find it on Walk4life and get a map which shows the route. If you log onto Walk4life then you can record that you have completed the walk.

If you want to find out more about geology, then use our Links page to see what the local geological societies are offering this autumn. Shortly most of the societies will finalise their programmes for the next year, so there will be many lectures and talks on various subjects to be enjoyed. The Worker's Educational Association usually offers evening classes in geological subjects so look at their website, too. www.wea.org.uk

The Yorkshire Geological Society's meeting in September is being held at the National Coal Mining Museum, near Wakefield, and offers a morning of geological walks, talks and displays for the general public, with a programme of talks on mineral and energy resources during the afternoon. All activities are free, so take advantage of this exciting event. Further details are given overleaf.

Alison Tymon

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GEODAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

Sunday 31st July Oakwell Hall Country Park, Kirklees WF17 9LG Yorkshire Day 11.00 - 4.00

Exhibitions of rocks, minerals and fossils and photographs showing the geology of West Yorkshire. Bring your own rock, mineral and fossil specimens for identification. Many learning and play activities for children with an interest in dinosaurs

GEODAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

**Saturday 6th August Anglers Country Park, Winterset, Wakefield
Waterton Countryside and Discovery Centre WF4 2EB (SE 375 153) 11.00 – 4.00**

Exhibitions of rocks, minerals and fossils and photographs showing the geology of West Yorkshire. Bring along your own rock, mineral and fossil specimens for identification. Many learning and play activities for children with an interest in dinosaurs

Ogden Water, Halifax Rocks and Landscapes around Ogden Water

Thursday 18th August 1.30 – 4.30 Organised by Calderdale Council

Walk of about 3 miles on footpaths and tracks across the moors above Ogden Water to look at rocks and fossils in quarries. Views from the moors will tell us about the geological formation of local landscapes. Bring a hand lens if you have one.

Meet Alison Tymon at the Ogden Water Countryside Centre HX2 8YA (SE 066 308). There is a small charge for parking at the car park nearby. Good trainers or walking boots needed. Bring a drink and a snack to keep you going.

Frickley Country Park, South Elmsall, Wakefield Rock around Frickley Colliery

Monday 22nd August 2.00 – 4.00 Organised by Wakefield Council

A short walk of less than a mile to see the recently landscaped Frickley Colliery site, now the country park. Find out about the rocks and fossils found in the mine shafts, as well as other rocks and landscapes in the South Elmsall area. Bring any interesting rocks or fossils that you have found to be identified by experts. Meet Alison Tymon and Rick Ramsdale at the Doncaster Road car park WF9 2JU (SE 477 100) on the B6422 about half a mile south of South Elmsall railway station.

GEODAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

Friday 26th August 11.00 – 2.00

National Trust, The Old Goods Yard, Marsden HD7 6DH (SE 047 117)

Exhibitions of rocks, minerals and fossils and photographs showing the geology of West Yorkshire. Bring along your own rock, mineral and fossil specimens for identification. Many learning and play activities for children with an interest in dinosaurs

Pule Hill, Marsden Guided geology walk

Sunday 28th August 1.30 – 3.30 Organised by the National Trust

Meet at the Carriage House pub, on the A62 two miles west of Marsden (SE 029 102) HD7 6NL. Walk of about a mile to see fossils and a sandstone quarry, as well as views of moors landscapes. Wear good footwear and bring waterproof clothing, as it is very cold on Pule Hill.

Beaumont Park, Huddersfield (SE 126 144)

Sunday 11th September WYGT Display for National Heritage Day

Organised by the Friends of Beaumont Park

National Mining Museum, Caphouse Colliery, Overton, WAKEFIELD WF4 4RH

Saturday 24th September 11.00 – 5.00 Yorkshire Rock, Mineral and Fossil Day

Organised by West Yorkshire Geology Trust and Yorkshire Geological Society

Morning programme 11.00 – 1.30

Poster display from local and regional geological societies and sales table for Yorkshire geology leaflets and booklets. Displays of rocks, minerals and fossils from the Chalk, mineral ores from working mines worldwide and a microscopy demonstration. Short talks by experts on exciting topics, such as coprolites (the polite geological name for fossil poo), dinosaur footprints and mass extinctions.

Short walks at 11.00, 12.00 and 1.00 in the National Coal Mining Museum grounds to see the geological landscape to the north of the site. There is an exposure of siltstone and mudstone about 300m from the main building, next to the Hope Mine buildings.

Underground mine visits at 10.00 and 11.00. Limited numbers for each tour. Book through Alison Tymon.

Afternoon programme 2.00 – 5.00

Lectures on the theme of 'Geology and Industry - new frontiers'. Further details will be available on the Yorkshire Geological Society website during the summer www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk

Contact Alison Tymon at alison@wyorksgeologytrust.org for further details.

Crosland Moor, Huddersfield The rocks and landscapes of the Huddersfield area

Sunday September 25th 2.00 – 4.00 Organised by Kirklees Council

A walk of about 2 miles on public footpaths around Crosland Moor to see how the geology has formed the landscapes around Huddersfield. There are several vantage points where it is possible to see into the Crosland Hill quarries to see how the local sandstone is quarried.

Meet at 2.00 at the Reception area for Johnson Wellfield Quarries, Thewlis Lane, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield HD4 7AB (SE 118 148). Buses from Huddersfield along Blackmoorfoot Road terminate close to Thewlis Lane. Parking is available in the Johnson Wellfield car park, opposite the main entrance (courtesy of Johnson Wellfield Quarries Ltd). Wear sensible shoes or boots and waterproofs.

Building Stones in the centre of Halifax

Sunday 23rd October 2.00 – 4.00 Organised by Calderdale Council

A gentle walk around the centre of Halifax to see the variety of local and imported decorative rocks used in the buildings in Halifax

Meet Alison Tymon at Halifax Minster, Kirkgate, HX1 1QL (SE 097 252) by the main porch, for a walk of less than a mile ending at the Piece Hall. We will study the way the features of local sandstones can be seen in buildings. Many newer buildings use imported stones, such as granites, slates and marbles for decoration, so we can identify their origins and the properties which make them so useful.

GEODAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

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